

One **Big** Thing

U.S. Embassy Stockholm

April 2009 Newsletter

David Rodgers Meets With Leaders in Business and Government

David Rodgers, Director for Strategic Planning and Analysis at the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy of the U.S. Department of Energy, arrived in Stockholm on April 2 with a busy schedule. During his two days in Stockholm, Mr. Rodgers met with the Swedish Trade Council, Scania, Chemrec, Chalmers Fulbright Professor Art Ragauskas, members of the construction, auto and biofuels industries, AmCham, Volvo AB, and representatives from the Swedish government. A number of synergies between U.S. and Swedish interests were identified for follow-up.

Rodgers focused his remarks on the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act passed earlier this year. He pointed to the billions of dollars devoted to energy efficiency and energy-saving in the bill, for instance, \$5 billion to weatherize homes of low-income families, \$3 billion in efficiency and conservation grants, and \$2.5 billion in research and development. In total the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy received \$16.8 billion in the financial stimulus package.



Stockholm deputy mayor Ulla Hamilton, David Rodgers, Energy Agency Director General Thomas Käberger and acting DCM Robert Hilton. Embassy photo

President Clinton in Sweden for Climate Event

On April 1, President Clinton and former British Prime Minister Tony Blair were in Stockholm to participate in an event about climate change and the challenges that comes with it. The event



was sponsored by Svenska Postkodlotteriet, which has given much of its profit to various charitable organizations working for a cleaner environment. Following their presentations, President Clinton and Mr. Blair were presented with a replica of a solar panel-powered house from Swedish cleantech company Midsummer, one of the companies listed on the Embassy's A-list.

Prime Minister Reinfeldt, Tony Blair, Postkodlotteriet CEO Niclas Kjellström-Matseke and President Clinton. Photo by Svenska Postkodlotteriet.

In his speech, President Clinton, talking as Chairman of the Clinton Climate Initiative, expressed concern that the current financial crisis might give some an excuse to push climate efforts to the future. He urged the world leaders to prove that efforts to save our climate can be cost effective.

Tony Blair, who, since leaving office, has been working with The Climate Group to bring about sustainable global climate agreements, emphasized Sweden's important role when it takes over the EU Presidency on July 1.

Prime Minister Fredrik Reinfeldt opened the meeting, addressing an audience of 900 invited guests from the government, Parliament, business community and NGOs.

Chargé D'affaires Silverman Addresses Major Energy Meeting

On March 12, Chargé d' Affaires a.i. Robert Silverman addressed the Energitinget, one of Sweden's largest annual forums concerning energy and the environment. Mr. Silverman was part of a panel that discussed future oil supplies and usage. In his presentation Mr. Silverman talked about the Obama Administration's plans in the energy and environment fields, new funds dedicated to energy and the environment in the stimulus package and the Embassy's efforts at cooperation through the One Big Thing. Mr. Silverman also answered questions from the audience about global oil production, drawing on his experiences working at the U.S. Embassies in Saudi Arabia, Iraq and Azerbaijan.



Chargé Silverman at Energitinget. Embassy photo by Ian Bald

Swedish Cleantech Draws Arkansas Interest

Fulfilling aims of the One Big Thing, the Arkansas Green Valley Network visited Sweden March 8 – 14 to meet with Swedish clean tech companies for discussions on collaboration and commercialization of sustainability technology. The network group, headed by Steve Rust, President and CEO of Fayetteville Economic Development Forum (FEDC) and Director of the Green Valley Network also included representatives from the Arkansas World Trade Center, University of Arkansas and the Arkansas business community.

While in Stockholm the Network visited Picoterm, Kista, for a demonstration of the company's thermo-acoustic technology. Travelling then to Falkenberg on the West coast, the Network visited Acticut AB, which represents world-leading research and know-how for producing a new generation of tools and systems for the wood and metal cutting industry.



The Embassy's Commercial Counselor Frank Carrico and Senior Commercial Advisor Catharina Kronstrom then met the group for a morning briefing on Swedish clean tech firms and Embassy OBT activities. Chargé Robert Silverman hosted an evening reception that was attended by Swedish firms with a strong interest in investment possibilities in the Valley.

Chargé Silverman with Steve Rust at an Embassy reception for the Arkansas Green Valley Network. Embassy photo

Chargé Silverman Tours the North on Biorefinery Quest



Chargé Silverman tours Sekab. Embassy photo

During a March 10-11 trip to three cities on Sweden's Biorefinery Coast along the northeastern Baltic coast, embassy staff visited the heart of a traditional export industry - paper and pulp – that is in the process of redefining itself. The Chargé d' Affaires and his colleagues saw large paper and pulp mills that are developing biofuels from waste by-products: ethanol from wood chips and methanol from "black liquor" (a waste wood by-product). Luleå University of Technology provided an in depth report on its renewable energy related research.

Do you want to read more about the Embassy's work with the One Big Thing?

See www.usemb.se/Environment



Embassy of the United States of America

Dag Hammarskjölds väg 31
115 89 Stockholm

If you do not wish to receive future newsletters, please email "unsubscribe" to stkenery@state.gov